Solar Schools Toolkit: The Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

Alex Rebhun, '23

Course: POLSB420 with Marissa Golden

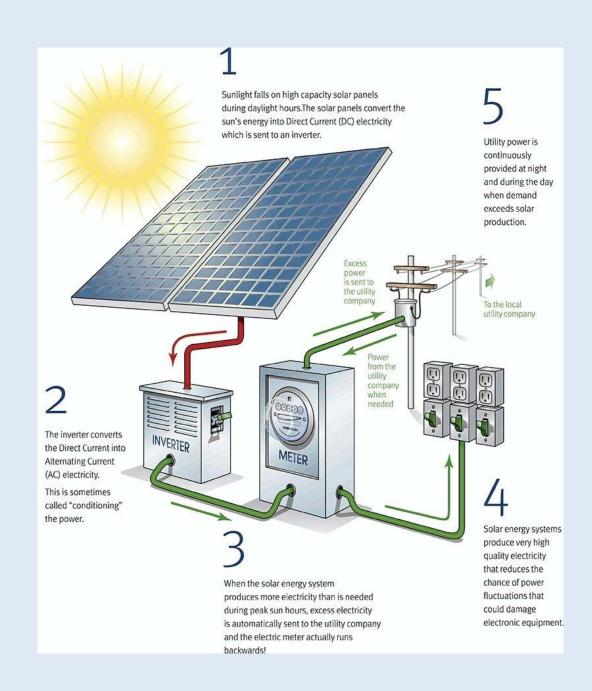
Field Supervisor: Liz Robinson, Executive Director



Background:

The Philadelphia Solar Energy Association (PSEA) is a local non-profit whose goal is to "promote the rapid adoption of solar energy across the state." The volunteer-based organization promotes solar adoption through policy, events, and education. With new solar incentives in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, the PSEA has been developing a digital toolkit to help schools across the state implement solar energy systems.





Toolkit Work:

Though I worked on several projects with the PSEA, the Solar Schools Toolkit was a main focus. My contributions included:

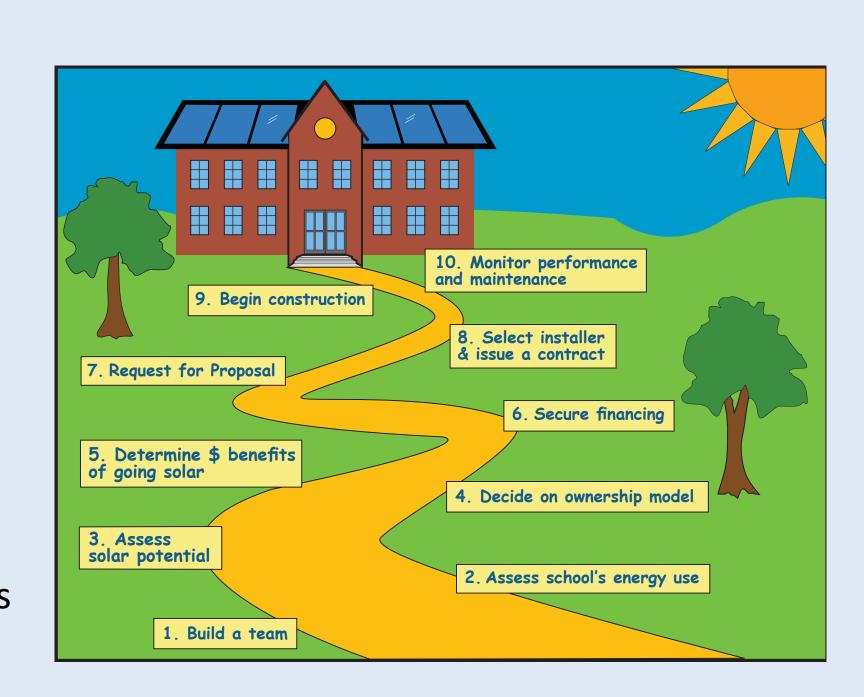
- Editing assistance for clarity and legibility.
- Formatting and indexing.
- Sourcing images of photovoltaic (PV) systems and components.
- Research on niche topics such as electric school busses.

I also assisted with PSEA website content, contest organization, and an exhibit opening.

Takeaways:

Overall, my time with the PSEA was a wonderful learning experience:

- I developed a collaborative-document building skillset.
- I became familiar with industry regulations and terminology.
- I honed my research and editing skills.
- I learned to better work collaboratively through complex scheduling and remote meetings.
- Gained an understanding of how state and federal grant opportunities are closely linked with non-profit policy writing scope.



Many thanks to Liz Robinson, Lisa Rose, and the PSEA team for their warm welcome and kindness throughout the past four months. I'd also like to thank Marissa Golden, Tiffany Stahl, and Liv Raddatz for their wonderful support in making this Praxis semester possible.

